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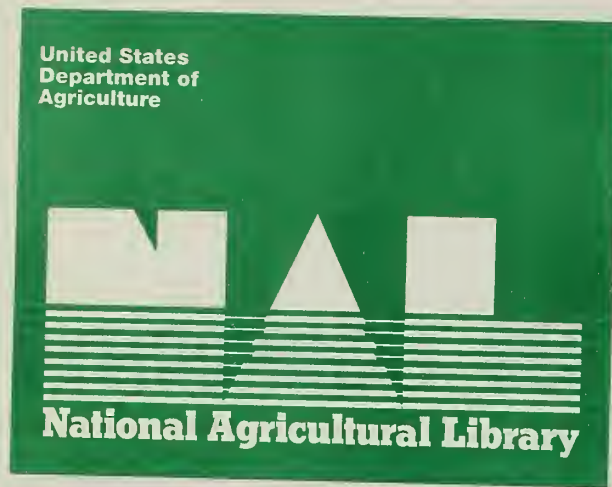
FILE COPY

ENVIRONMENT RESTORED

YAZOO-LITTLE TALLAHATCHIE
FLOOD PREVENTION PROJECT

MISSISSIPPI

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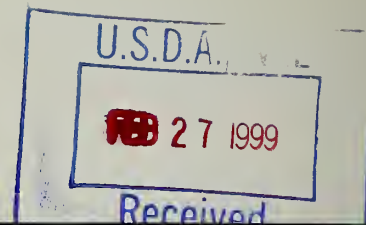
The
to reb
by a century of land abuse.

On-the-ground direction for the Project became the joint responsibility of two agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture: the Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service. Working through established Soil Conservation Districts, they began land treatment work in 1947.

This report summarizes the accomplishments of the Yazoo-Little-Tallahatchie Project since its inception in 1944. The success of this entire conservation effort was possible only through the cooperation of the landowners in the area. Their understanding of — belief in — the proposed land-management programs constituted the critical pivot point in helping create a better environment in which to live.

RED

ablished
ssissippi





1935 - THE YAZOO-LITTLE TALLAHATCHIE



The statistics were also bleak:

- 527,000 acres totally destroyed by erosion
- 597,000 additional acres damaged by erosion
- \$4,387,000 annual damage from floods and sediment
- 100 million tons of soil washing from hillsides to cover rich bottomlands and clog stream channels

poor land-poor people



The people were poor:

- Average yearly income: \$194.00
- Cropland: average price was \$23.00 per acre
- Automobiles: only 28% of the farmers could afford
- Mortgages: on 37% of the farms



The soil was poor:

- Each cultivated acre had lost an average of 3,620 tons of topsoil
- 545,600 acres of formerly productive land lay idle
- 965,000 acres barren, awaiting reforestation

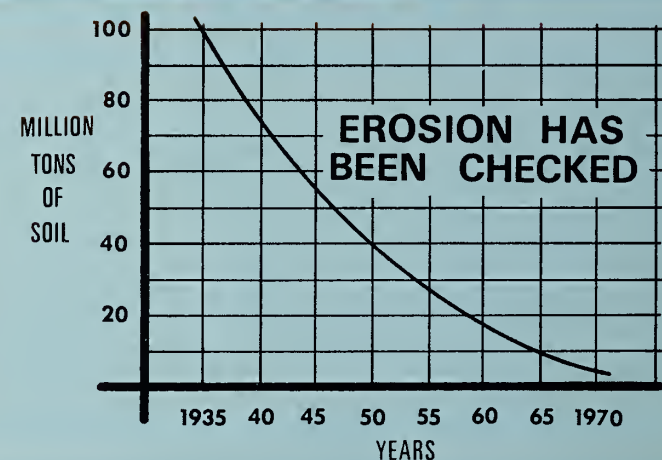
THE LONG ROAD BACK



Men and dollars were thrown into the battle to save the ravaged lands of the Yazoo-Little Tallahatchie area. A first step: laborious hand-planting of millions of pine seedlings to halt erosion.

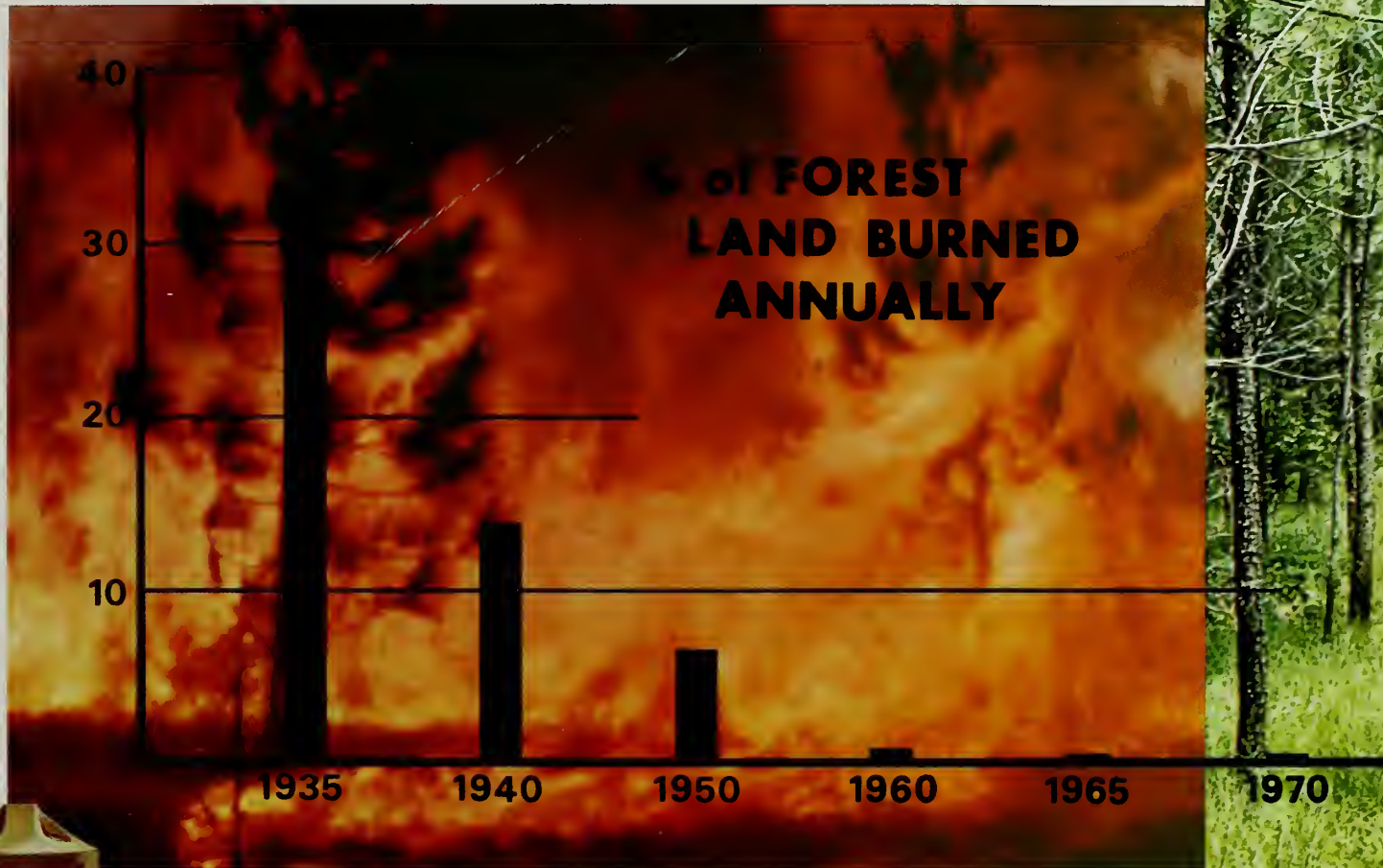
What man had destroyed carelessly had to be rebuilt slowly with sweat and dollars. Between 1947 and 1970, the effort took:

- 2,570 man-years for planting of trees
- 752 man-years for improving low-grade timber stands
- 160 man-years for rebuilding badly eroded sites



a vital step - fire prevention

Before the Yazoo-Little Tallahatchie Project began, wildfire in the area was an annual ritual that scorched and re-scorched all of nature's efforts to reforest the land.



To protect their newly-planted forests, landowners in the Y-LT Project constructed 1,300 miles of fire-access roads. In addition to permitting quick suppression of fire, these roads have many other beneficial uses:

- Hiking trails
- Hunting and fox chase trails
- Bridle paths for horsemen
- Production of food for wildlife
- Motorbike trails
- Haul roads for harvested timber



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a large, light-brown, tilled field. To the left of the field, there is a small farmstead with several white buildings and a dirt road. The middle ground is dominated by a dense forest of trees with autumn-colored foliage in shades of red, orange, and brown. Beyond the forest, there are more fields and a small pond. The background shows a hazy horizon with distant hills and more land.

BEAUTY and PRODUCTIVITY...

returned to the land

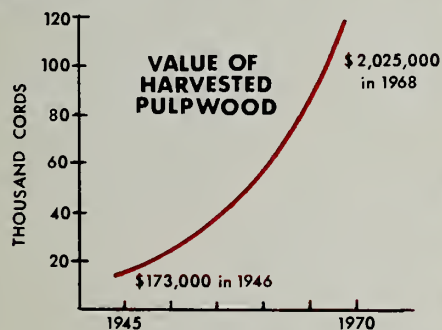
The results:

- 678,357,000 trees planted
- 248,430 acres of timber stands improved
- 703,095 brush dams built to stop erosion
- 42,377 acres of land returned to agricultural production
- 1,079 Tree Farms established

With the restored land



Given protection, the young forests began to thrive and become productive. The first crop: pulpwood — removed to thin the stands and permit better growth of the remaining trees.



Newly-planted pines in 1959 (left photo) on the farm of Mr. S. L. Dees are ready for thinning in 1969 (right photo).



This supply of raw material soon attracted new wood-using industries to the area.

Major pulp and paper mills using wood purchased from YLT flood prevention pine plantations.



-wood industry



EVERY YEAR Y-LT's TIMBER HARVEST CONTRIBUTES TO MISSISSIPPI's ECONOMY:

Stumpage	\$ 6,047,185
Harvesting	9,312,665
Primary manufacturing	22,797,887
Secondary manufacturing	23,463,078
Construction	20,439,948
Transportation and marketing	13,424,750
	<hr/> \$95,485,513

\$1,105,000

**THAT'S WHAT THE AVERAGE ANNUAL
STUMPAGE VALUE - RETURNED TO LANDOWNERS -
OF FLOOD PREVENTION PINES WILL BE FROM 1966 to 1985**

-crops and cattle

YIELDS

	<u>1935</u>	<u>1968</u>
CORN (bu. per acre)	14.1	41.1
COTTON (lbs. of lint per acre)	179	551
BEEF CATTLE (thousand head)	363	652
SOY BEANS (bu. per acre)	<u>1938</u> 6.3	25.8

WITH THE RESTORATION OF THE LAND CAME AGRICULTURAL BENEFITS:

- Pasture improvement: 988,453 acres
- Conservation Farm plans: 27,816 acres
- Conservation Cropping Systems: 755,021 acres
- Stream Bank Protection: 2,436 acres
- Roadside Erosion Control: 4,500 acres

THE REBUILDING OF THE LAND INVOLVED MUCH CONSTRUCTION WORK:

- 464 floodwater structures
- 3,605 miles of water diversions
- 11,770 miles of drainage ditches
- 31,712 farm ponds
- 2,562 sediment control structures
- 1,300 miles of stream channel improvement

-recreation too

When rushing, roiled waters are halted they become the clear ponds, lakes, and reservoirs enjoyed by all who love outdoor recreation and natural beauty.



Boating on a quiet lake.



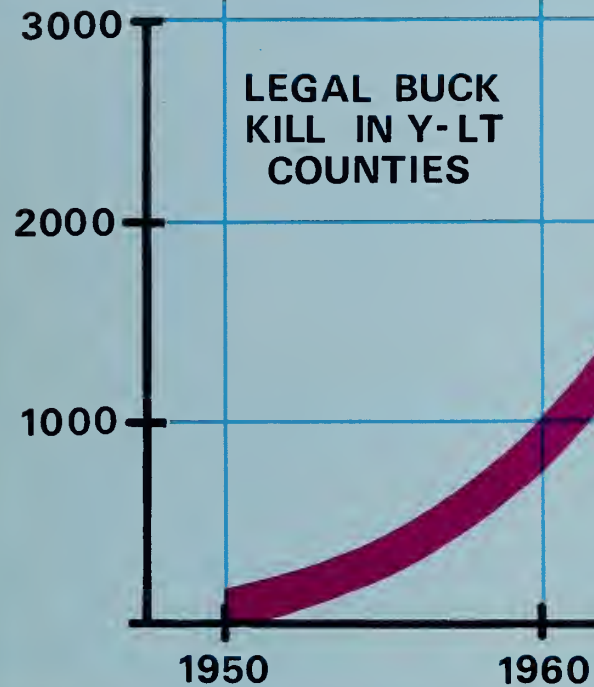
Swimming on a secluded beach.



Camping or picnicking beneath the fragrant pines.



-better hunting and fishing



The returning forests meant better habitat for wildlife, including the game animals and birds. The deer herds multiplied rapidly when they were supplied food, shelter, and ample water. The 32,500 floodwater-retarding lakes and ponds attracted deer to most of the watershed area.

The same flood-retarding structures provide sportsmen with 60,000 acres of new and excellent fishing waters.



Y-LT is a success . . . WHY ?

- The local people who had known little but cropland economy were willing to make the abrupt change to improved pasture-pineland operations, mostly just because of their belief in the proposed programs.
- Some 27,000 private landowners cooperated by establishing one or more conservation measures on their land.
- The Forest Hydrology and Sedimentation Laboratories provided the needed guidelines to proper land management techniques for the area.
- Planners gave careful consideration to the individual needs and desires of each landowner within the Project areas.



- Organizations such as the Farm Bureau, Chambers of Commerce, Garden Clubs and many others cooperated wholeheartedly with the public agencies in promoting the programs designed to restore the land.
- Recreational developments around the larger reservoirs attracted thousands of visitors who came to see and stayed to learn, thus spreading the message of the merits of good land rehabilitation programs.
- Forest industries, recognizing the potential supplies of raw materials, came to the area and opened up markets for the wood crops maturing on the reforested watersheds.
- The Mississippi Forestry Commission provided effective fire prevention.



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Man is the only being on earth who is able to control his environment. The steps by which Americans took over their new world were almost inevitable: they coped with it for survival; they subdued it in the name of progress; they ravaged it in greed and ignorance.

The earth taught a quick and painful lesson: abuse will be returned a hundredfold. The state in which a civilization finds itself will be a reflection of the conditions of its natural environment.

But the lessons brought home so forcefully in the Yazoo-Little Tallahatchie area stirred an eventual reaction which, in turn, brought a message of hope: man, when he acts in time, can turn back the tide of his mistakes.

Man now comes to the fourth inevitable step in controlling his environment; he must rebuild and protect it.

THERE IS MORE YET TO BE DONE —

Land treatments still needed to restore the Yazoo-Little Tallahatchie area include:

Tree planting — — — on 346,599 acres

Pasture improvement — — — on 519,100 acres

Debris basins — — — 6,219 needed

Roadside erosion control — — — on 2,170 miles of roadways

Streambank protection — — — on 1,219 miles of waterways.

The following organizations cooperated with the U. S. Forest Service in land programs on the Yazoo-Little Tallahatchie Project. They will continue to provide forestry assistance to landowners throughout the area.

Soil Conservation Districts

Soil Conservation Service

Agricultural Stabilization Conservation

Extension Service

Mississippi Forestry Commission

Mississippi Forestry Association

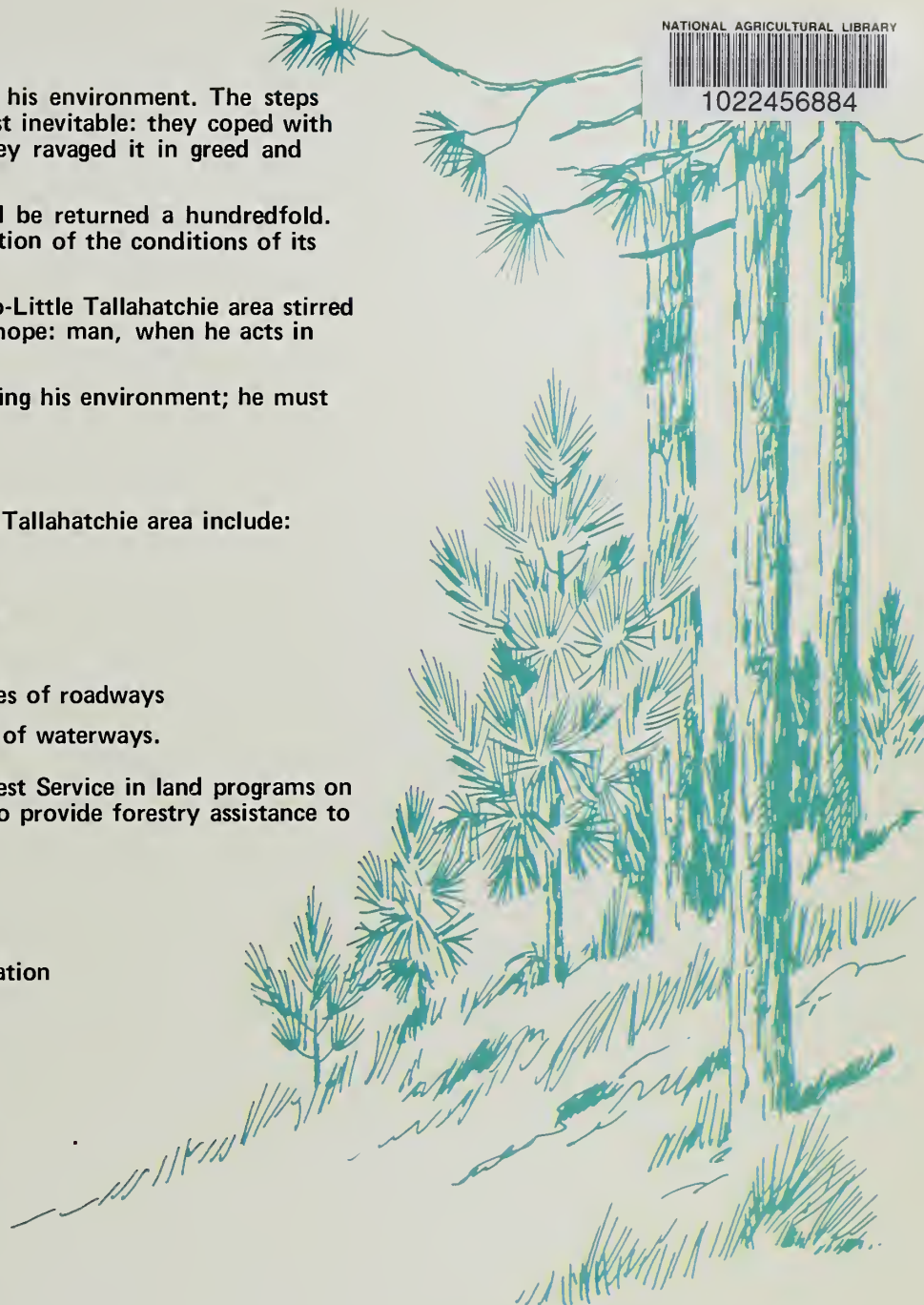
Pulp and Lumber Industries

For further information, please write:

U. S. Forest Service

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Oxford, Mississippi 38655





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**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY
SOUTHEASTERN AREA**

